

**Nevada Department of Education
Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE)
Tuesday, November 3, 2015 - 9:00 A.M.**

Meeting Locations

NV Department of Education
700 E. Fifth Street
Board Room
Carson City, NV 89701

and

NV Department of Education
9890 S. Maryland Parkway
2nd Floor, Board Room
Las Vegas, NV 89183

**UNOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
(No Quorum Reached)**

Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Denette Corrales, Chair

Roll call was delayed until 9:25 a.m. in an attempt to achieve quorum. Quorum was not reached; therefore, this was not an official meeting and no actions were taken.

Members Present

Kelcey West

Jennifer Hoy

Denette Corrales

Stavan Corbett

Billiejo Hogan

Members Absent

Nick Smith

Teresa Benitez-Thompson

2 Vacant Positions

Stacie Wilke

Patricia Farley

NDE Staff Present

Dena Durish

Cynthia Santos

Laurie Hamilton

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General (DAG)

Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement and Nevada Department of Education Updates
(Information/Discussion) Dena Durish, Deputy Superintendent, NDE Division of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement

Agenda Item #5

- Cynthia Santos is the newly hired Education Programs Professional (EPP) for the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. Cynthia provided a brief description of her background.
- Additional EPP hires are in the works for the Educator Preparation and Great Teaching and Leading Fund programs.
- The Division of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement Director position is still vacant. The recruitment has been extended. The position is anticipated to be filled by the first of January 2016.
- Steve Canavero is still serving as the NDE Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction. The timeframe to fill the position permanently has not been released.
- Janie Lowe has delayed her retirement and is still the NDE Acting Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement.
- Legislative Initiatives Updates are available at the NDE website. On November 12, 2015, NDE will present to the State Board of Education (SBE) updates on everything having to do with categorical funding; including Zoom and Victory Schools, Read by Three, etc. These updates will be provided at the next PIFE Council meeting as they relate to the work of the Council.

- Updates on two (2) legislative funding sources that provided educational choice to families (See NDE website Legislative Implementation Update page; SB 302 and SB 165)
 1. Education Savings Accounts: public dollars were allocated by the legislature equivalent to the Distributive Schools Account (DSA) amount of approximately \$5,700 per student; this program is operated by the State of Nevada Treasurer's Office which develops regulations for the program; the distribution of funds is as follows: students with disabilities are given up to 100% of the approximate \$5,700 DSA amount, households with incomes at less than 185% of the designated federal poverty level are eligible for up to 100% of the DSA, all other students awarded funding will receive 90% of the DSA – the remaining 10% of the funding will go to the school to which the student would have been assigned; litigation is pending about this program, NDE is moving ahead with the distribution of funds anticipated for the Spring of 2016
 2. Opportunity or Educational Choice Scholarship Program: organizations / businesses may donate money each fiscal year and receive a tax credit against the modified business tax; the fund can collect a maximum of \$5,000,000 dollars in contributions per fiscal year; families apply for scholarships through one of the organizations who distribute the funds - AAA Scholarship Foundation, Education Fund of Northern NV, Dinosaurs and Roses, and NV Future Stars, Inc.; qualifying families may be awarded up to \$7,755; eligible households must be at income levels less than 300% of the federally designated poverty level
- PIFE Council Budget Options
 - No funds have been expended yet from the \$4,700 budget allocation for 2015-2016 fiscal year.
 - Members wishing to receive mileage and travel reimbursements may do so. Travel documents will be prepared per quarter or twice a year. Members will be contacted as to whether or not they want to be reimbursed for travel.
 - During the previous meeting, the value of the Parent Involvement Conference that was attended last fiscal year by member Hoy was discussed. The expense to attend that conference was approximately \$1,700. Should the Council choose to send a member to a similar event this year, the \$1,700 could be subtracted from the year's budget allocation, leaving a balance of approximately \$3,000 in available funds for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- Parent Engagement Summit
 - Statute states that the Office and the Council of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement will support the steering committee in planning a biennial summit alternating between the north and south. A \$10,000 budget line item is also established for the Summit.
 - There is nothing in statute that says who "owns" the conference. This event is not the duty of the Office of Family Engagement. Additionally, the NDE does not have the mechanisms to collect money for donations, sponsorships, etc.
 - The \$10,000 budget line item for the 2014 Summit was given to Washoe County School District and the Education Alliance. That money was merged with other donations and varying levels of sponsorships and advertisements. The Steering Committee spent in excess of \$60,000 on the 2014 conference.
 - Dena and Cynthia are beginning planning conversations with the intent that a Summit would be held in Las Vegas. The goal is to make the conference systemic and viable beyond the people involved at any given time.
 - PIFE Council needs to determine a plan to form a Steering (Planning) Committee during an upcoming meeting.
 - Something to be considered is that if the PIFE Council makes this a function of a PIFE subcommittee, it would be subject to open meeting law. A Steering (Planning) Committee, whose members are jointly determined by the Department and the Council, that does not actually bring recommendations to or for a vote of the Council, would not be subject to open meeting. DAG Greg Ott clarified that the Steering (Planning) Committee would need to be very clear that they are only to be planning the event and are not to provide any analysis or recommendations to the PIFE Council. This item was tabled until it could be included in a Council work session.
 - D'Lisa Crain, WCSD, provided a brief history of the Summits. The first four Summits were funded and staffed through grant funding, along with volunteers. The fifth year no grant funding was available. A Steering Committee of volunteers formed and distributed the work of the marketing and outreach, arranging for speakers and dignitaries, agenda, location, etc. It took the committee of seven people over eight months and many extra hours outside of work to plan the event. Washoe County School District created a separate account for the Summit and handled all the contracts, fiscal requirements, receipt and

payments of funds for the event. Some funding remains from the last Summit. It has been transferred to Ms. Crain's department and is available for use during the next Summit.

Family Engagement Program Presentation, Washoe County School District (WCSD)

(Information/Discussion)

Agenda Item #7 - See WCSD State Council Handout

WCSD Presenters and Partner Participants

WCSD Department of Family-School Partnership Staff

Ana Anderson	Alicia Thomas	Maria Fernandez
Jenny Peterson	Olga Stanton	Jessenia Segura
Jan Koriath	D'Lisa Crain	

WCSD Child and Family Services

Tina Springmeyer	Ana Lomeli
------------------	------------

WCSD Title I

Rochelle Proctor	Hector Garcia
------------------	---------------

WCSD Council on Family Engagement Parent Representatives

Diane Bartholomew	Tami Berg
-------------------	-----------

Silver Lake Elementary School

Angela Flora, Principal
Shelly Sayles, Teacher

Northwest Regional Professional Development Program

Kirsten Gleissner	Laura Malkovitch
-------------------	------------------

Carol Gebhardt, WCSD Striving Readers
Dan Weigel, UNR Cooperative Extension
Liz Motter, ACTIONN Leader
Sun Hauping, Parent
Jim Liu, Interpreter

- D'Lisa Crain introduced the WCSD staff and partners listed above that participated in the presentation.
- There are five WCSD departments that are involved in and support the work of family engagement. It is a collaborative effort between the WCSD departments, schools, staff, and families.
- The WCSD family engagement policies and practices are guided by state and district policies, which speak to the Six Standards on Family Engagement by Joyce Edstein, and that have been updated by the National PTA. Some of the recent policy additions have been informed by the US Department of Education Framework for Family-School Partnerships.
- Family School Partnerships are partnerships on both sides. Families are encouraged to be supporters, monitors, advocates, decision makers, and collaborators in their children's education. Staff must recognize the strengths that families bring to their children's education and must be supported to work with families.
- The WCSD Strategic Plan includes a family engagement component and is a critical part of the district goals. The family engagement goals have targets, are measured, and staff is held accountable for outcomes.
- During the remainder of the presentation, the staff and community partners listed above offered details of their programs and initiatives, the collaboration and cooperation that occurs, strategies employed in working with families, and the impact on families and the community.
- Council members asked questions about the information presented in reference to the following topics.
 - WCSD family engagement work, strategies, and policies
 - communication with families
 - how many schools participate in family engagement programs, school level responsibilities in engaging families, and monitoring family engagement at the school level

- program evaluation and monitoring, data collection, feedback, data analysis, the use of same and its dissemination, measurements and demonstrated outcomes
- RPDP involvement in their training efforts, etc.
- Questions were answered and additional information and clarifications provided by WCSD staff and community partners.

Council Work Group

Denette Corrales, Chair

Agenda Previous Item #8 – See PIFE Office and Council Work Plan Handout

- This document was requested to be formatted in Excel.
- Members were asked to review the document and make suggestions as to how this document can be made longitudinal to demonstrate Council progress for reports and eventually make recommendations to the legislature.
- The goal is that the spreadsheet will provide documentation of Council reported results and how they are tracked.
- It is important to have parent and classroom teacher input as to what family engagement involves from a direct perspective. Three questions need to be considered: 1) What are we asking schools to do? 2) Are they doing it? 3) Is it working? The message needs to get through to teachers that family engagement adds to success, it is not just one more thing that needs to be done. It is good to hear from the people facilitating this work. We are not, however, hearing from those in the classrooms and parents, which is the source from where the most effective data will come.
- It was agreed that this item should be discussed when the Council is in quorum and that teachers need to know that most of family engagement items are things they are already doing. We also need to give them more strategies. Her district has a district-wide Parent-Community meeting coming up. She would like to evaluate this document to see how it fits with the district plans.
- Consideration may be given to expanding and adjusting the family engagement model to fit middle and high schools based on the work of Dr. Maria Paredes. Family engagement looks different in the upper grades and is still important.
- There is tremendous value in adding student feedback on family engagement to this equation.
- Member Hoy will attempt to get students and classroom teachers to provide input to the Council about the importance of family engagement during a future meeting, perhaps February.
- Perhaps students could put this information together and provide the Council with some sort of media presentations. It would be important to get a statewide perspective from students.

Finalize PIFE Council 2015 – 2016 Meeting Schedule

Agenda Item #9 – See 2015-2016 PIFE Meeting Schedule Handout

- Discussion was held as to the future meetings dates, member availability, how many meetings might be held each year, etc.
- A doodle poll will be sent to all members to determine availability and confirm attendance for the meetings that are currently published and on the schedule.
- Members are requested to respond as soon as possible to the poll.
- Quorum for all meetings is essential.

Future Agenda Items

(Information/Discussion) Denette Corrales, Chair

- Council Work Groups
 - Council Work Plan
 - Map Council Work and Responsibilities
 - Establish definitions of items listed in Council Responsibilities
 - Document Council work, how it is expected to be done, and timeframes for completion
 - Best practices that the Council might want to recommend to the legislature to be adopted statewide as policy

The following items were not addressed or voted on due to lack of quorum.

Public Comment #1

Flexible Agenda Approval

Review/Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2015
Legislative Progress and Implementation Report
Council Work Group (other than Council Plan)
Public Comment #2

Adjournment

Discussion concluded at 12:51 p.m.

Unofficial Meeting